Please amend the claims as follows.

21. (Previously amended) A shaped surgical article having a portion thereof formed from an absorbable polymeric matrix, said matrix comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase of a crystalline or semi-crystalline material that has a melting temperature lower than the melting temperature of said continuous phase and that forms a distinct phase that provides a visual cue upon melting of said material, characterized in that said shaped surgical article is shaped at from a minimum temperature that is at least about the melting temperature of said material and is effective to provide said visual cue to a maximum temperature of about 65°C, while said visual cue is present.

22. (Previously amended) The shaped surgical article of claim 21 selected from the group consisting of burn dressings, hernia patches, medicated dressings, facial substitutes, gauze, fabric, sheet, felt, sponge for liver hemostasis, gauze bandages, arterial graft or substitutes, bandages for skin surfaces, burn dressings, bone substitutes, needles, intrauterine devices, tubes, surgical instruments, vascular implants, vascular supports, vertebral discs, extracorporeal tubing, artificial skin, stents, suture anchors, injectable defect fillers, preformed defect fillers, bone waxes, cartilage replacements, hemostatic barriers, tissue scaffolds, monofilament sutures and braided sutures, pins, rods and plates.

23. (Currently amended) The shaped surgical article of claim 21 selected from the group consisting of bone substitutes, vertebral discs, pins, rods and plates.

24. (Previously amended) The shaped surgical article of claim 21 wherein said continuous phase is an amorphous aliphatic polyester selected from the group consisting of amorphous polylactide, amorphous polyglycolide, amorphous poly-1,4-dioxan-2-one, amorphous polytrimethylene carbonate, and miscible blends thereof.

25. (Previously amended) The shaped surgical article of claim 24 wherein the dispersed phase is an aliphatic polyester selected from the group consisting of poly(ε-

caprolactone); copolymers of ε-caprolactone and with up to 40 mole percent of a second monomer selected from the group consisting of lactide, lactic acid, glycolide, glycolic acid, 1,4-dioxan-2-one, and trimethylene carbonate; copolymers of ε-caprolactone or trimethylene carbonate with greater than 60 mole percent 1,4-dioxan-2-one but less than 90 mole percent and blends thereof.